

CYPRAS, Inc.

221 Norris Dr., Suite 2
Rochester, NY 14610

August 24, 2018

TO: Binghamton Area High School Principals

FROM: Scott Kroner, MasterMinds Commissioner

RE: MasterMinds sign-up/registration for the 2018-2019 school year

Last year, a record number of high schools [130] across upstate New York participated in **MasterMinds**, the fast-paced, quiz bowl-style, question-and-answer interscholastic academic competition program.

The current academic year presents a new opportunity to reach out to schools in the Greater Binghamton area and explore the possibility of finding enough schools to move ahead with MasterMinds. The program is a regular part of the extra-curricular offerings in schools across much of upstate New York. From Buffalo to Albany, more than a fifteen hundred students participating in MasterMinds last year. Played at both the varsity and JV levels and with a rapidly growing middle school version, MasterMinds provides a competitive structure to recognize the strengths of academically talented students, but does so in a 'sports model' that provides for a more robust experience.

The cost for MasterMinds for a full, 12-game regular season in 2018-2019 is normally **\$761** and the cost for an optional JV program is **\$337** (varsity participation is a prerequisite). **But in an effort to spur first time participation, we're offering a 33% discount, reducing the varsity fee to \$509 and the JV fee to \$226.** Transportation remains the responsibility of each individual school. This fee includes practice questions, new school orientations, playoffs (if we have more than one league) and entry into the state playoffs.

If you are unsure of interest among your students, you can schedule a demonstration where we come to your school -- either during lunch or after school -- and show your students what the program is about. If you are interested, please check the appropriate box on the registration form and return it as soon as possible or simply call to schedule an appointment. These demonstrations have been very popular and are effective in gauging student interest. Enclosed you will also find a sample schedule to show what a full season would look like.

To register and participate in MasterMinds for the 2018-2019 season, the enclosed registration form should be completed and returned as soon as possible, with a deadline of **Friday, October 26, 2018**. To assist with planning, a prescheduling form has been enclosed for your coach. If you are considering working with another school to field a joint team -- something that is permitted -- we encourage you to contact us to help with coordination. Please note: if we do not generate enough teams to form a league, schools will not be billed.

We would like to see the Binghamton region become a fifth area to participate in MasterMinds, joining schools in the Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Albany regions. Please consider joining the increasing roster of schools participating in MasterMinds; the time has never been better to add the program to your catalog of extracurricular activities. If you have any questions about MasterMinds, contact Scott Kroner at 585-473-0864 or e-mail mminds@rochester.rr.com. You can also check out www.nymasterminds.com for additional information.

We look forward to hearing from you!